

**Montana Department of Military Affairs
Disaster & Emergency Services Division
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for August 18, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

Wildfires of 2003

Attention * - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

I. Background Information:

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

II. Current Montana Fire Situation: (as reported to NRCG August 17, 2003 (2400)

A. Large Fires

Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5

National Preparedness Level = 5

- ***93 West Area Command (Greenhoe) is managing the following fires:***
 - ***Fish Creek Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Benes) – 10,250 acres, 0% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula.***
 - ***Black Mountain 2 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Dietrich) – 7,316 acres, 0% contained, 9 miles W of Missoula. A Type 1 Incident Management Team (Gelobter) has been ordered.***
 - ***Cherry Creek – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Swope) – 4,000 acres, 60% contained, 12 miles SE of Thompson Falls.***
- ***93 East Area Command (Ribar) is managing the following fires:***
 - ***Cooney Ridge Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Sandman) – 15,275 acres, 10% contained, 11 miles E of Florence.***
 - ***Gold 1 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Philbin) – 6,168 acres, 10% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis.***
 - ***Boles Meadow – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hoff) – 3,750 acres, 60% contained, 25 miles NE of Missoula.***
 - ***Mineral/Primm – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Bennett) – 11,500 acres, 5% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula.***
 - ***Dirty Ike – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Chrisman) - 850 acres, 90% contained, 3 miles NE of Clinton.***
 - ***Strawberry Mountain – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Berndt), 1,300 acres, 65% contained, 27 miles SE of Missoula.***
- ***Hobble – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Larsen) – 38,400 acres, 80% contained, 6 miles E of Greycliff.***
- ***Eastern Montana Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Walker) has been ordered, 18,508 acres, 50% contained.***
- ***Cathedral Peak – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Humphrey) – 1,065 acres, 5% contained, 10 miles S of Nye.***
- ***Lincoln Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Studebaker) – 5,223 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln.***

- *Craig II – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Stam) will assume command 8/18, 5,250 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles E of Lame Deer.*
- *East – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Gardner) – 14,400 acres, 10% contained, 10 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, Yellowstone National Park.*
- *North Howard Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kechter) – 2,843 acres, 60% contained, 16 miles W of Missoula.*
- *Northwest Area Command (Mann) is managing the following large fires:*
 - *Crazy Horse – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Vail) – 9,807 acres, 15% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius.*
 - *Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) – 42,967 acres, 45% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
 - *Wedge Canyon – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Hart) – 40,586 acres, 60% contained, 20 miles E of Eureka.*
 - *Trapper Creek Complex – Complex is 24,053 acres, 65% contained, located 45 miles NE of Kalispell.*
 - *Little Salmon Creek Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath). This 21,135 acre lightning caused Wildland Fire Use complex is located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.*
- *Rough Draw Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Oltrogge) – 1,968 acres, 5% contained, 8 miles S of Livingston, Montana.*
- *Windmill Complex – Type 2 Team Incident Management Team (Szczepanik) – 16,410 acres, 30% contained, 17 miles E of Hardin.*
- *Winslow – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Blume) – 8,150 acres, 10% contained, 5 miles SW of Lakeview.*
- *Burnt Ridge Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hendricks) will assume command 8/18 at 0600, 575 acres, 6% contained, 3.5 miles NW of Neihart.*
- *Sheep Complex – 750 acres, 40% contained, 28 miles N of Townsend. Type 2 Incident Management has been ordered*

B. Initial Attack *Light initial attack – 20 new fires 45,676 acres*

C. State Forecast For Montana

FIRE WEATHER WATCH FOR INCREASING WEST WINDS LATE TUESDAY AFTERNOON THROUGH EVENING FOR PALOUSE/HELLS CANYON...CLEARWATER/NEZ PERCE... KOOTENAI... FLATHEAD AND GLACIER PARK... LOLO... SALISH AND KOOTENAI RESERVATION...BITTERROOT... FIRE WEATHER ZONES INCLUDED IN THIS WATCH ARE: 102...103...104...105...106...107...108...109

FIRE WEATHER WATCH FOR STRONG WEST/NORTHWEST WINDS WITH DRY COLD FRONTAL PASSAGE ON WEDNESDAY...VERY HIGH FIRE DANGERS...LOW HUMIDITIES AND ACTIVE FIRES...FIRE WEATHER ZONES INCLUDED IN THIS WATCH ARE 123 THROUGH 133

***STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT
430 AM MDT MON AUG 18 2003***

WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

Today...Mostly Sunny With Areas Of Smoke. Highs 81 To 91.

Tonight...Mostly Clear With Areas Of Smoke. Lows 45 To 55.

Tuesday...Mostly Sunny With Areas Of Smoke. Becoming Partly

Cloudy And Breezy...With A Slight Chance Of Thunderstorms Late Afternoon And Evening. Highs 84 To 94.

CENTRAL MONTANA

Today...Mostly Sunny. Smoke. Highs In The Upper 70s To Mid 80s.

Tonight...Mostly Clear. Smoke. Lows In The Upper 40s To Mid 50s.

Tuesday...Mostly Sunny. Smoke. Highs In The Lower 80s To Lower 90s.

SOUTHWEST MONTANA

Today...Mostly Sunny. Smoke. Highs In The Lower 70s To Lower 80s.

Tonight...Mostly Clear. Smoke. Lows In The Lower 40s To Lower 50s.

Tuesday...Mostly Sunny. Smoke. Highs In The Mid 70s To Upper 80s.

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA

Today...Partly Cloudy. Mostly Cloudy With A Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms Southeast. Highs In The 80s.

Tonight...Partly Cloudy. A Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms Southeast. Lows In The 50s To Lower 60s.

Tuesday...Partly Cloudy. A Chance Of Morning Showers And Thunderstorms Southeast. Highs In The Mid 80s To Lower 90s.

III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:

The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
<i>Custer County</i>	<i>Emergency Declaration</i>	<i>8/13/03</i>
<i>Stillwater County</i>	<i>Emergency Declaration</i>	<i>8/16/03</i>

IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:

State and National Guard Assistance:

Current National Guard Resources Assistance		
AIRCRAFT MODULES	EQUIPMENT	PERSONNEL
3 UH-60S	7 HMMVs	11 Soldiers to NW Area Cmd
	3 HEMTTs	34 Soldiers to Missoula Area Cmds
	1 1 ¼ TRAILER	10 Soldiers to Central MT
	4 M-35 2 ½ TON TRUCKS	7 Soldiers as Overhead Spt
	1 M1009 CONTACT TRUCK	
<i>3 Aircraft Modules Assigned</i>	<i>16 HVY Equipment Assigned</i>	<i>62 Soldiers Assigned</i>

Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0700-1900 daily.
- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:

Missoula Area Command
Sweetgrass County (Hobble Fire)

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

V. FEMA Grants:

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties

VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:

For the latest fire restrictions:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

For the latest closures and evacuations:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures